

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5664

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, XA, GH

SUBJ: SMC DESIRES TO MODEL NEW SMC SECRETARIAT AFTER
WHITE HOUSE STAFF

1. COLONEL ARNOLD QUAINOO, COMMANDANT OF MILITARY
ACADEMY TRAINING SCHOOL, CAME TO EMBASSY JULY 12
TO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING MATERIAL ON
FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF. HE
HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO PREPARE A STAFFING PLAN FOR
A NEW SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL SECRETARIAT AND WAS
TOLD TO USE AMERICAN WHITE HOUSE STAFF AS A GUIDE.
HE STATED SMC'S DESIRE IS TO BROADEN POLICY-MAKING
BASE AND AVOID ACHEAMPONG APPROACH OF CIRCUMVENTING
STAFF IN MAKING MAJOR DECISIONS.

2. COLONEL QUAINOO SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED FOLLOWING
INFORMATION:

A. ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF WHITE HOUSE
STAFF;

B. SPECIFIC DUTIES OF CHIEF OF STAFF OR
COORDINATOR OF STAFF;

C. DUTIES OF OTHER KEY PERSONNEL;

D. LINES OF COMMUNICATION FOR COORDINATION
AND COMMAND;

E. POWERS OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF;

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F. RELATIONSHIP OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF TO OTHER
FEDERAL AGENCIES.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS HEARD THAT COLONEL QUAINOO
WAS AN IMPORTANT ACTOR BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE
OVERTHROW OF ACHEAMPONG AND WAS THE FIRST OFFICER
IN THE IMPORTANT MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL TO CALL

OPENLY FOR ACHEAMPONG'S RESIGNATION. IT APPEARS HE WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN NEW GOVERNMENT AND IS UNDER ORDERS TO PROVIDE REQUESTED MATERIAL ASAP TO NEW LEADERS. THIS IS ONE OF SEVERAL STEPS THE SMC IS TAKING TO PREVENT REPETITION OF THE "ONE-MAN RULE" FOR WHICH ACHEAMPONG IS BEING CRITICIZED. BY DECREE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S PRESS, SMC HAS STRIPPED THE CHAIRMAN OF HIS PREVIOUS POWER TO APPOINT COMMISSIONERS AND AMBASSADORS AND VESTED IT INSTEAD IN THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL. MOREOVER, WHEN CHAIRMAN OF SMC IS UNABLE TO PERFORM FUNCTIONS OF HIS OFFICE FOR ANY REASON, ANY FOUR MEMBERS OF SMC MAY PERFORM THOSE FUNCTIONS. THRUST OF THESE MOVES IS TOWARDS A LESS AUTOCRATIC, MORE WESTERN-STYLE FORM OF COLLECTIVE DECISION-MAKING IN THE SMC.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMBASSY BE FURNISHED ASAP APPROPRIATE MATERIAL RE WHITE HOUSE STAFFING PATTERN AND ORGANIZATION FOR PASSING TO COLONEL QUAINOO.
HOLMES

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